

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGUALR BOARD MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS
FEBRUARY 27, 2018

1.0 Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Chartiers Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the Middle School Commons.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President
Mr. Mark Kuczinski, Vice President
Mr. Jeff Choura
Mr. Eric Kraemer
Mrs. Julie Murphy
Mr. Brian Kopec
Mr. Darren Mariano
Mr. Robert Kearney

Also Present

Mr. Scott Seltzer, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor
Dr. Jillian Bichsel, Director of Secondary
Education

Absent

Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik

D. Recognitions

None

Mr. Seltzer said that item 6.12 would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

E. Public Comments

Pam Poletti, a new Education Foundation board member, talked about the foundation. The mission is to recognize and reward exceptional academic student achievement for personal growth and to promote high quality, innovative instruction. In the past few years, the foundation has given over \$20,000 to teachers in the form of grants that they apply for with an emphasis on stimulating innovative teaching ideas and new learning opportunities for the students. Also, \$14,000 is given out to students who apply for scholarships, and there are five different categories to apply for. Additionally \$33,000 goes back to the district for the Superintendent to distribute to programs that he selects. Our annual fundraiser is Trivia Night and it takes place Saturday, March 24th at the Heidelberg Fire Hall.

Bob Fryer said that he had appeared before the board at an earlier date attempting to solicit the support of the school district to assist in clearing out the traffic congestion on Washington Pike. He talked about the 50 year long problem stating that it was different than all other regional traffic congestion problems. It has caused the collapse of tax revenue in the Bridgeville business district, prevented the expansion of the adjacent South Fayette business district and the comparative failure and sale of the Great Southern Shopping Center. Because of the traffic, people detour around the area. It would be great if we could get some support from the school to get the problem solved.

Nicole Steinhart had some school safety questions after the safety meeting that she attended the night before. How many students are there in the district K-12, how many resource officers are there and ratio per student, who mans the security cameras that are currently installed? If there are any, I know they are linked to the Collier Twp. Police Dept., but is there a police officer watching them at all times, is there someone in the schools that are watching them, these are the questions that myself and other parents have. Has the school district considered metal detectors? I am aware, according to yesterday's meeting that the school is already over budget from a safety perspective, that's what we were informed of.

Mr. Mazzarini said that they did not say over budget, just what the budget was.

Nicole Steinhart asked how many times a year are they reviewing safety drills, fire drills as well as any type of lockdown drill? I am aware of the Scott Twp. Police Dept. working with other schools doing lockdown training. Is that something that is being implemented or you're thinking about implementing? I was also told that the wrong locks on the doors were installed, not sure what school it is, but they were told to use a buckle or rope.

Mr. Mazzarini stated that he didn't think they were the wrong locks, that it was part of the Alice Training.

Mr. Seltzer said that it is part of the training that not only do you lock the door, but you barricade the door. It's not that the locks don't work, it's that we want to do more than lock the door.

Nicole Steinhart said that she knows fire drills are done on a regular basis, but her MS and HS students have not had any kind of lockdown drills. I get that the teachers are doing this training, but I think the students should be also so they know what to do in that situation. The reason I bring this up is because I did enter the MS and went straight to the office without being stopped and I've had other parents state the same. I just want this on the record that I do have school safety concerns.

Mr. Seltzer asked when this incident occurred.

Nichole Steinhart said that it happened in November.

Mr. Mazzarini said that they will be discussing safety later in the meeting and that he hopes they can address most or all of her questions and concerns.

Renee Thornton said that she wanted to discuss two issues. First is accountability of the teachers, some teachers do not put their grades in until the end of the nine weeks. It's not fair to the student, they're managing their time and I'm hoping there could be some kind of timeline.

Renee Thornton discussed her son's daily schedule and stated that while at rehearsal the student that bullied him last year was there. She said that this particular student has graduated and she was not sure if he was just there for the evening or if he was going to be there every night, but it wasn't fair that during her son's senior year that he should have to deal with this. She said she is not sure if there is a breakdown in communication, if it has been approved that this student will be performing, if there is no accountability, or if Mr. Myers is just unaware of the situation because he wasn't there last year. This is his senior year, and the one time he shouldn't have to deal with this, it's just not fair.

Rita Manski said that she just wanted to say kudos to the workers outside, that worked in all this weather, it's a job well done.

Mr. Choura said that he would just like to recognize two former board members that are in the audience. Pam Poletti and Patty Figorski. They put in a number of years serving this district as board members and served this district very well, I would just like to recognize them.

2.0 Superintendent's Reports/Presentations

Mr. Seltzer discussed the rental of facilities and the cost, stating that it should be discussed and my recommendation is that any changes made, should probably take effect July 1st. He also discussed the elementary Spanish Program, stating that if we're going to do the program properly that we're going to have to devote more time to it than we have in the past. Then we will have to decide where we're going to get that time from.

Dr. Bichsel stated that effective practices show that emersion is the best way to learn a language and I think emersion would be a very difficult thing to do given the amount of staff and time available during the day. It lends itself to more challenges and I think it's something that we have to work through and decide, what is more important.

2.1 February, 2018 Board Report.

3.0 Solicitor's Report

None

4.0 Approve Minutes

None

5.0 Informational Agenda

A. Education Foundation

Mr. Mazzarini said that he and Mr. Kuczinski had an opportunity to spend some time with Mrs. Figorski, who is the President of the Education Foundation. In past history we have not had an open line of communication between the board and the foundation for a variety of reasons, lack of representation, time allotments etc. Moving forward and having the discussions that we have had, this is a great opportunity to reset, realign and use the abilities of the entire district and the community to create a really meaningful relationship between the foundation and the district. We're excited about Trivia Night and to lend ourselves in any way to help the foundation.

B. Pathfinder

Mr. Kraemer said that the meeting was held on Wednesday and he was unable to attend, and he hadn't received an email from the Board Secretary as of this time. What I expect to see in that email is a second draft of the budget, the main issue in that budget is the roof. There was a second meeting held regarding the roof, and we're waiting for additional contractor to give us bids and determine whether we can patch and repair for one more year and how we're going to raise the money.

C. Parkway

Mr. Choura said he was unable to attend the meeting, he was in a meeting with our board. I will have a report next month for all of you.

D. SHASDA

Mr. Kearney said that their next meeting is Thursday, March 1st. It is the first annual student forum, the format and theme has changed. They are showcasing south hills area schools. Each member school district has been invited to select a student from various grade levels and share something that is happening in their school that makes them proud. A few CV students will be participating.

Mr. Seltzer said that he believed that we have four students participating. It's a new format. The past few years, what they have done was give students a group of questions about education and it was really a good opportunity for Board Members, Superintendents and Administrators to see what the students thought about the educational process. It's changed and they're now going to show off the kids a bit. They will present an idea or project and it will give other schools in the south hills area an opportunity to see what other districts are doing.

E. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Kuczinski said that they discussed a lot of subjects in detail. The first being our insurance broker. We've had a couple issues within the last month or so, and we were questioning whether we were getting the level of service that we deserve. It has been recommended that we go out with an RFP in the not so distance future for a new insurance broker. Campus Security, near and dear to all of our hearts, most of us have kids in one of these buildings, so we did talk about that at length. We had asked for a list of things that could be purchased or things that could be done. Things that we have heard through the public, feet on the ground, surveillance, video, things like that. Obviously these are tough times, we really want to do everything that we can and be creative just like everybody else. One thing that we discussed, was putting out for referendum, at a vote, to see if it warranted, if people would be up for a millage increase to go towards security. If you look at the list, a lot of it is personnel costs which are recurring costs year after year and a millage increase would cover the cost. We also talked about AED's and purchasing additional units, ours are past their lifespan. We are also looking at repositioning them within the buildings.

We reviewed the bill listing, we have a new format and the board was very complimentary to the finance folks for putting that together. We are looking at purchasing seven buses and three vans this year and we also discussed the size of our bus garage and possibly doing something with it in the future.

- 5.1 Motion to accept the 2016-2017 audit report as presented by Cypher and Cypher at the February 13, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Kuczinski stated that concessions showed up on the audit again for the second year and that he's not sure how that will be rectified, but we don't want to keep carrying it over from year to year.

**Motion to approve item 5.1 listed above.
MOVED by Mr. Kuczinski, seconded by Mr. Kearney.
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

6.0 Consent Agenda

A. Academics

B. Personnel

6.1 Motion to approve Human Resource Report.

C. Budget & Finance

6.2 Motion to approve financial reports of January, 2018 and payments for February, 2018.

6.3 Motion to Exonerate Mr. Ted Gazda for the uncollected portion of the 2017 Real Estate Taxes.

6.4 Motion to adopt the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's policies and procedures and to approve the 2018-2019 Use of Funds Agreement as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

6.5 Motion to approve the participation in the AIU Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Consortium for the 2018-2019 school year.

6.6 Motion to approve the Districts participation in the AIU custodial and paper supply bid.

6.7 Motion to approve the AIU service agreement for 2018-2019.

6.8 Motion to approve Addendum No. 1 participation in NRGCS Powerpay program for 2018-2019.

6.9 Motion to approve vehicle surplus equipment list as attached.

6.10 Motion to authorize District to prepare and transmit RFP for transportation vehicles as attached.

6.11 Motion to approve purchase of AED's for Middle School and High School.

D. Superintendent

6.12 Motion to approve Varsity News Network Agreement – Championship Package.

Item 6.12 has been removed from the Consent Agenda, no vote.

- 6.13 Motion to approve Registration for Boys and Girls Bowling teams post season tournament (WPIBLS) fees for \$220/each team.

Mr. Mazzarini asked about the bowling teams.

Mr. Seltzer said that every year we pay for the tournaments that they attend. This is a club sport and we are allowed up to \$350 per team.

Mr. Mazzarini said they would be tabling the musician portion of the Human Resource Report and since the musical is next week, anyone who is approved will be retroactive.

Motion to approve items 6.1 through 6.11 and 6.13, tabling the Musician portion of the HR Report. MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Kuczinski. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7.0 Action/Discussion

- 7.1 Motion to approve Phase One Development Change Order #02 as listed for an add of two thousand five hundred dollars and zero cents (\$2,500).

Motion to approve item 7.1 listed above. MOVED by Mrs. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Kraemer. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mazzarini said that the district held a security meeting last night in the auditorium. Mr. Seltzer did an awesome job of pulling together a group of professionals to discuss where we are as a district and how we view the security and safety of our kids. I thought the program was very well done and was happy to see 85 concerned people in the room. It's great to see you all here tonight because we don't see nearly enough of our community members at our meetings. Last night there seemed to be enough of an important issue that we got a lot of people in the room, the comments were great and a lot of them were aligned with what we're thinking. As Mr. Kuczinski referred to in our finance committee meeting, we put a number to it. Everybody wants to be as safe as we can be, we have to be creative and smart about it. Sometimes it comes down to dollars and cents and using the resources we have. When we talk about going to referendum, the number we came up with, with all the suggestions that were handed out last night, is almost two and a half million dollars to put them into place. It is an important matter to keep buildings, kids and staff safe, it takes money. When you're out in the community and you're thinking safety, promote the fact that we need the money to do it. At the meeting last night, the program discussed the phasing of how we're going to present this to the students. The portion that is going to be shown to the high school kids is going to be different from the elementary kids and it's very well done. Mr. Kelly and Mr. McCartney are going to get that information out onto our website so it will be available to view. Mr. Seltzer and I are going to work together in putting a communication piece together to send out to the entire district about safety and security. A lot of our principals and administrators stayed for the meeting last night because they care, and I just want to recognize them.

Mr. Seltzer said that he had a community member call him because of the length of time it took her to get her MS student today. She was met by campus safety before she could turn in, when she got to the school, she had to be buzzed through the front door and she had to stay in the vestibule until her child came to her. She wasn't upset, but wanted to know what changed. I told her that this is how the building has been designed and we're just getting the technology now to get it done. There are going to be more additions as this building comes to its completion. I really want to thank everyone that showed up last night, it was a great turn out and I appreciate all the efforts. We can't do it alone, we need the parents, kids and the community. That's the only way to try and prevent anything from happening. I am also very appreciative of you coming tonight to voice your concerns and I, our principals and officers will be happy to meet with you anytime.

We will give you as much information as we can, we can't tell you our entire plan, but we can give you as much as we have available. This community amazes me, our students amaze me. I've been in a lot of districts, and these kids rally around each other better than anywhere I've ever been. All of our focus is our students, with your help we will get this done.

Mr. Mazzarini said that the reason they asked for this meeting to be held here in the commons tonight is because we wanted to show that this space was not only built for our students, but our community. We want you to get used to being able to meet in this space, use these spaces as they were designed. Yes, there is a level of security we have to adhere to, but at the same time we want this property and buildings to be a community space. The board also wanted to be here tonight because this building is getting near completion and our contractors are going to be going away here shortly once the final touches are put on and we want to take a very thorough walk tonight through this building and put our eyes on it and make sure what we paid for is what we got.

Mr. Seltzer gave a special thanks to Nutrition Inc., they provided the food tonight. They wanted to present what our kids like.

Sara Zrimsek of Nutrition Inc. said what you see here is a traditional set up of what the kids see every day.

8.0 Public Comments

Mr. Bane talked about how lucky we are to have our officers in the buildings and that the districts townships police departments are so close. He also discussed the last steel beam that went in with the flag and how proud he is to be here.

9.0 Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Kopec. .
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Wiseman
Acting Board Secretary.